

Camps

Duxbury Clipper, Thursday, March 18, 1971

About Camp Blairhaven

(The following statement on Camp Blairhaven, Howland's Landing, was sent to the Clipper by George McCurdy, president of the Massachusetts New Church Association. - Ed.)

For four weeks, during July and August, Camp Blairhaven is a bustling center of religious fun for young people from ages 9-16. The first two weeks of the camp are for children 9-12 and the last two are for ages 13-16.

Camp Blairhaven is sponsored by the Massachusetts Churches of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian) and its staff members are chosen from our laymen who are willing to give of their time and talents.

Although the camp is sponsored by our denomination, we by no means limit campers to our own faith. We have young people from all faiths come and share their individuality with us. A good number of these young people are city children from all kinds of family backgrounds. Duxbury is their one chance to "escape" from the city to enjoy the clean and wholesome facilities of Duxbury.

The Church charges a very nominal fee for these campers. Each of our churches in the Boston area provide free scho-

larships for children to attend. The camp is always run at a deficit but we feel the good done at Blairhaven makes it worth going in the red each year.

Evidence for this thinking is best shown by example. Last year a rumor was started that our church was considering selling the property. The young people were horrified and they began a letter writing campaign to the officers of the church pleading for reconsideration. When a recent "eminent domain" letter was received by us from the Duxbury Town Planning Board the young people tried to secure funds on their own to obtain legal assistance to block such a move.

Such love and loyalty to Camp Blairhaven is refreshing and I feel we are doing good, even if we do go in the red financially each year.

Camp Blairhaven is not left vacant the rest of the year. Other churches ask our permission to use the camp. They, too, love the facilities and one church liked Duxbury so well they brought their young people out to the camp and spent the whole day cleaning and picking up debris along the beach front.

We serve as host to church picnics, retreat weekends and vacation time for ministers and their families. Our plans for the future will always be to serve people. Our camp is a religious center where we want

to bring people closer to the Lord and one another.

At all times we want to be good neighbors to you the community. If anyone has suggestions or questions for us we will be happy to receive them. Thank all of you for your part in helping us to be useful at Howland's Landing.